

Message Text

MRN: 1977CAIRO 022609 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

ADP380

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

-----129131 222334Z /61

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3354

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

FROM USDERL CAIRO NO. 0032

7. BEN-ELISSAR THEN STATED THAT HE HAD SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS OF DIFFERENT NATURE TO MAKE. ISRAELI DELEGATION HAD EXPERIENCED TEN DAYS AND ESTABLISHED PERSONAL RELATIONS THAT WOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. SINCE ARRIVAL OF ISRAELI DELEGATION DECEMBER 13, PERSONAL RAPPORT ESTABLISHED BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI DELEGATIONS IN GENERAL -- BEN-ELISSAR AND ABDEL MEGUID, ROSENNE AND EGYPTIAN LEGAL EXPERTS, GENERALS TAMIR AND MAGDOUB WAS TRULY MOVING. WE ARE NOT GIVEN TO "SENTIMENTALITY," BEN-ELISSAR NOTED, BUT "WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS" AND RECEPTION BY EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND GENERAL RAPPORT ESTABLISHED WERE "VERY TOUCHING." IMPORT OF CAIRO DISCUSSIONS GOES "FAR BEYOND" EXCHANGES BETWEEN JURISTS AND DIPLOMATS. BEN-ELISSAR STATED AS RESULT OF CAIRO DELIBERATIONS EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS ARE IN MIDDLE OF PEACEMAKING PROCESS, NOT AT THE BEGINNING. BEN-ELISSAR NOTED THAT CAIRO CONFEREES ARE MEETING "TO HELP OUR

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LEADERS," WHO WILL HELP THEMSELVES ON SUNDAY. ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS ARE NOT HIDING THEIR DIFFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGE DIFFICULTIES WHICH LIE AHEAD, BUT BOTH SIDES DESIRE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AND THUS DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING

"TREATIES" AND "AGREEMENTS" WAS BY NO MEANS THE WHOLE STORY. ISRAELIS DESIRE FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT WITH WHOM "YESTERDAY WE WERE AT WAR AND TOMORROW WE HOPE TO BE IN FRIENDSHIP." BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE IN CAIRO CONFERENCE IS THAT "WE ALL NOW FEEL THAT EVERYTHING IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION."

8. BEN-ELISSAR EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AFTER SUNDAY'S SUMMIT CAIRO DELIBERATIONS WILL BE ABLE TO PROGRESS MORE QUICKLY, WITH LESS ATTENTION TO MINUTE DETAIL, BUT HE ADDED THAT CAIRO CONFERENCE DID NOT SIMPLY DISCUSS AGENDA AND PROCEDURE BUT DELINEATED CLEARLY AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO SIDES. BEN-ELISSAR THANKED AMBASSADOR MEGUID FOR THE FRIENDSHIP HE HAD SHOWN DURING CAIRO MEETINGS AND FOR COOPERATION SHOWN BY EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IN DISCUSSIONS.

9. AMBASSADOR MEGUID RECIPROCATED BEN-ELISSAR'S WARM COMMENTS AND NOTED THAT "WE CANNOT BELITTLE WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AT CONFERENCE ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL SOME DIFFERENCES WHICH WILL BE IRONED OUT." AMBASSADOR MEGUID NOTED THAT BEING SENTIMENTAL IS BY NO MEANS A WEAKNESS BUT RATHER A STRENGTH AND NOTED THAT DELIBERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED AS BETWEEN NEIGHBORS, WHO WORK FOR BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE IN AREA. AMBASSADOR MEGUID SAID THAT CAIRO MEETINGS HAD BEEN "TREMENDOUS BREAKTHROUGH" WHICH HAD RESULTED IN RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. AMBASSADOR MEGUID NOTED THAT HE COMES FROM SEAPORT OF ALEXANDRIA AND STATED THAT

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"WE ARE SAILING SLOWLY, LEAVING PORT NOT YET UP TO CRUISING SPEED, BUT WE WILL SOON BE." VISIT OF WEIZMAN CLEAR INDICATION OF SERIOUSNESS OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS WHO PREPARING FOR PEACE. "IT IS OUR DUTY TO HELP." AMBASSADOR MEGUID CONCLUDED THAT MEETING IN ISMAILIA ON SUNDAY "VERY SERIOUS" AND WILL CONDITION FUTURE DELIBERATIONS OF CAIRO CONFERENCE.

10. ATHERTON NOTED RADICAL CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IN CONTRAST NOT ONLY TO EXCHANGES IN DISTANT PAST BUT EVEN TO NEGOTIATIONS OVER SINAI AND GOLAN, WHEN PARTIES WERE NEGOTIATING THROUGH THE U.S. CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE IN FACT REPRESENTS CHANGE IN SUBSTANCE, NOT MERELY PROCEDURE. "THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME." USG VIEWS SADAT-BEGIN MEETING AS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND DESERVING OF UNRESERVED SUPPORT.

11. ROSENNE PROPOSED UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION FOR CAIRO CONFERENCE: BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON HIS BIRTHDAY FROM CAIRO CONFERENCE, WHICH IN ESSENCE IS

"A CHILD OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE." BEN-ELISSAR THEN
QUIPPED THAT GIVEN DAY OF DECEMBER 25 ROSENNE SHOULD BE
CAREFUL CONCERNING TALK OF "NEW-BORN CHILDREN."
AMBASSADOR MEGUID NOTED THAT PRESS SHOULD BE INFORMED
THAT DATE FOR NEXT CAIRO CONFERENCE SESSION WILL BE
DETERMINED AFTER CONSULTATIONS FOLLOWING SADAT-BEGIN
SUMMIT. BEN-ELISSAR CONCLUDED THAT, IN STATEMENTS TO
PRESS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD STRESS NOT ONLY IMPORTANCE OF
SADAT-BEGIN MEETING BUT ALSO OF INFORMAL, SUB-COMMITTEE
AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF CAIRO CONFERENCE AND THAT
PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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